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PRESENTS

My Personal Notes . . .

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Ed Smithson, Editor

“...and be ye thankful.”

So says the apostle Paul in his Colossian letter, 3:15. This isn't the only time thankfulness is mentioned in the scriptures.

I wrote a piece on being thankful a few years ago and have published it a few times about this time of year. In it I expressed thankfulness for the church, my friends and some other things that were important to me.

This time I would like to mention some other things, things that might not on first glance seem that important, but are very valuable nonetheless.

- ☒ I am thankful that I serve a God who is all powerful and is able to see us through any situation.
- ☒ I am thankful for the opportunity to worship God according to the New Testament.
- ☒ I am thankful for the ability to sing praises to God in worship on the Lord's Day.
- ☒ I am thankful for the privilege of prayer.
- ☒ I am thankful for the church.
- ☒ I am thankful for the love and support of good brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ☒ I am thankful for the opportunity over these years to be able to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ.
- ☒ I am thankful for all the preaching brethren and others who went before us, and the sacrifices they made to show us the way and make it easier for us.

- ✠ I am thankful for the love of my children.
- ✠ I am thankful for the touch of the hand of a child.
- ✠ I am thankful for the tenderness and support of the gospel shown by loving men and women of THE FAITH.
- ✠ I am thankful for the advances in medical sciences.
- ✠ I am thankful for the doctors and nurses who endeavor to keep me going and to keep me alive.
- ✠ I am thankful for those in the military uniforms of this country who give their time and abilities and sometimes their lives to defend the freedom we enjoy.
- ✠ I am thankful for the ability to remember:
 - ① The smile of my mother.
 - ① The discipline of my father.
 - ① The security I knew as a child because of them.
 - ① The fellowship, love and camaraderie of a large family.
 - ① The old fishing hole where we spent many happy hours.
 - ① Growing up on a farm where we could learn the lessons of nature.
 - ① The guidance of big brothers and sisters.
 - ① The opportunity to get an education.
 - ① The times of youth when problems were not so great.
 - ① A first love.
 - ① A first date.
 - ① The site of my children newborn.
 - ① A bride walking down the aisle.
 - ① The first words of a child.
 - ① The night I was baptized.
 - ① The first sermon I ever preached.
 - ① The day I entered the US Army AND the day I was discharged.
 - ① The day my daughter died.
 - ① The day my parents were buried.

☒ I am thankful for solitude.

☒ I am thankful for the lady who cleans my house and her helpful attitude.

☒ This is just a partial list. You get the idea!

“O give **thanks** unto Jehovah, call upon his name; Make known his doings among the peoples.” (1 Chronicles 16:8) “O give **thanks** unto Jehovah; for he is good; For his lovingkindness endureth for ever.” (1 Chronicles 16:34)

“...when the fire came down, and the glory of Jehovah was upon the house; and they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and gave **thanks** unto Jehovah, saying, For he is good; for his lovingkindness endureth for ever.” (2 Chronicles 7:3)

“So stood the two companies of them that gave **thanks** in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me;” (Nehemiah 12:40)

“I will give **thanks** unto Jehovah according to his righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of Jehovah Most High.” (Psalms 7:17)

“I will give **thanks** unto Jehovah with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works.” (Psalms 9:1)

“Therefore I will give **thanks** unto thee, O Jehovah, among the nations, And will sing praises unto thy name.” (Psalms 18:49)

“Sing praise unto Jehovah, O ye saints of his, And give **thanks** to his holy memorial name.” (Psalms 30:4)

“To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Jehovah my God, I will give **thanks** unto thee for ever.” (Psalms 30:12 all references from ASV and emphasis is mine.)

And almost one hundred other passages.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Smithson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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